

Amendments to the Specification:

On page 5 of the specification, please amend the paragraph which begins on line 26, as follows:

In another embodiment of the invention according to Fig. 3, an apparatus 301 for embedding a signature in an audio-visual signal 302 containing flat regions is provided in a system 300 for authenticating audio visual signals. The audio-visual signal 302 is divided into image blocks by image divider means 310. Signature bits are derived in signature generator means 320 for image blocks generated in image divider means 310. A watermarking scheme is then employed by signature embedder means 340 by embedding the combined signature bits of all blocks calculated in combiner means 330. The watermark, preferably a spread spectrum watermark, ~~embedds~~ embeds the signature bits spanning the whole image as described above.